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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Division of Patent Application Serial No. 08/696,988 of

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YAMASAKI et al

Atty. Ref.: 249-159

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Serial No. to be assigned

Group:

Filed: January 30, 2001

Examiner:

For: PLATELET PRODUCTION PROMOTING AGENT

* * * * *

January 29, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 through 14 and add the following new claims:

15. (New) A modified polypeptide having human granulocyte colony stimulating factor activity (hG-CSF),
- (a) wherein at least one group of the carboxyl, mercapto or guanidino group in the molecule of the polypeptide is chemically modified with a polyalkylene glycol derivative; or
- (b) wherein the polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein at least one group of the amino, carboxyl, mercapto or guanidino group in the molecule of the polypeptide is chemically modified with a polyalkylene glycol derivative.

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